

# Lowell LMA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION



## SEASONAL RISE IN JANUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The substantial 2.2 percentage point rise over the month in the Lowell area's unemployment rate was almost entirely attributable to seasonal factors, such as the conclusion of the holiday merchandising in retail trade and declines in contract construction. January's 6.4% unemployment rate was reflected by increases in unemployment claims. Continued weeks claimed rose by 40% during the survey week, while initial claims increased by 2%.

## PERSPECTIVES ON THE DEMAND FOR MACHINISTS IN THE LOWELL LMA

A new publication is available from the Job Market Research Department: Job Openings Survey in Massachusetts March through September 1979. It is the only comprehensive source of current job openings available to assist planners in obtaining information on occupations in which labor shortages exist.

One of the findings of this Survey, (JOS) which was not disaggregated by labor area, was that machinists had by far the highest vacancy rate - almost twice that of the next highest occupational category and five times that of machine operators. The report offers two possible explanations: (1) employers put machine operator openings in the machinist category thus overstating the vacancy rate; or (2) there is a critical need for machinists.

In the Lowell LMA, the JOS found that individuals with the title of machinists, who worked in large firms, frequently performed the task of a machine operator. The report concludes that while the vacancy rate for machinists may be somewhat overstated, the true vacancy rate is indeed high.

In response to employers (particularly from the Lowell and Worcester LMA's) expressing an unmet demand for machinists, the Labor Area Research department conducted a supply-demand analysis of the occupation during the summer of 1978. The report attributed the demand for machinists to three factors: 1. retirement of a large number of machinists; 2. a shift in the occupational profile of industries employing machinists; and 3. the rapid growth of industries in which machinists are prevalent.

In view of the current demand for machinists in the Lowell LMA (38 openings existed in January 1981 with 22 unfilled 150 days or more), there exists yet another analysis offered by economist Lester Thurow of M.I.T. He suggests that in comparison with the rest of the labor force skilled blue collar workers were 5 times more likely to become unemployed, in a recession.

## AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,540	2,447	626	506	2,070
New Applicants .....	804	267	121	74	140
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Conversely, in a period of normal economic growth, industries report a shortage of skilled blue collar workers. The crux of the problem is that the training of skilled blue collar workers is a major weakness in our economy.

Many of the skills required for a machinist involve using expensive production machinery and semi-finished materials that cannot be provided in formal education. As a result, most blue-collar workers acquire their skills by working alongside an experienced worker. As production expands workers are gradually upgraded into higher skill classifications. When production falls, training stops. Blue collar workers are laid off with trainees suffering most of the cutbacks since they have the least seniority. The remaining employed workers are also bumped back down below their previous skill level.

Although skilled blue-collar workers are in short supply, there seems to be a large surplus when a recession arrives. The surplus sends an incorrect economic signal to both individuals and companies. Individuals are implicitly told that they should not choose these surplus occupations. Thus recessions lead to even greater reductions of skilled labor. The fact that skilled blue collar workers earn 80 percent as much as professionals is little solace to the unemployed. Companies are told that they need not invest in training programs. If needed, they can simply hire already trained workers. Thus the recession reduces the potential supply of skilled blue collar workers and makes tomorrow's economic problems even worse.

## LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	122,300	122,800	120,800
Employment .....	114,400	117,500	113,000
Unemployment .....	7,900	5,300	7,800
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.5	4.3	6.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	473	416	300
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	3,105	2,345	2,747

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	JAN 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	774
Openings Received .....	222

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS *	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL			
Nonmanufacturing - Total			
Construction			
Trans. & public utilities			
Wholesale & retail trade			
Finance, ins. & real estate			
Services & mining			
Government			
Manufacturing - Total			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS *	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

\* Figures will appear in the December issue of "Employment Review" due to Annual Benchmark Revisions.

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### SLIGHT DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate for February dipped fractionally over the month by .2 of a percentage point to stand at 6.2 percent. This decline was somewhat smaller than the (.8) of a percent point drop of February 1980. Although any decline in unemployment is important, this newsletter will primarily be concerned with another measure of employment - the nonagricultural wage and salary series (BLS 790). Compiled from questionnaires mailed to employing units, the BLS 790 is a monthly series providing the best source of information on trends in non-farm wage and salary employment and considerable industrial detail on a labor area basis.

### NON FARM EMPLOYMENT REACHES NEW HIGH

Nonagricultural employments' annual average reached a new peak of 76,400 in 1980. Employment was 2.4 percent higher than a year ago, although the rate of growth has slowed when compared to its 8 percent pace of 1979.

Manufacturing industries were responsible for all the growth, adding 1800 workers over the year. The strong performance was again led by the areas' "high technology" industries, although they are not creating openings quite as fast as they have in the past.

By contrast, the LMA's nonmanufacturing sector experienced some softness in 1980. Contract construction's total of 2800 jobs represents a drop of 3.6 percent over the year. Transportation, communication and public utilities gained 100 jobs, an increase of 3.1 percent. Wholesale and retail trade added 100 jobs to stand at 15,500. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate and Services both had a 5 percent growth rate and now employ 2100 and 12,500 respectively. The government totals contracted by 6.1 percent, to 12,300, a loss of 800 jobs. Overall, the non-manufacturing sector total of 48,500 remained unchanged over the year.

### WANG TO BUILD SECOND TOWER

In April, Wang Laboratories will begin construction of a second tower adjacent to its Industrial Avenue

site in Lowell. The tower necessitated by corporate expansion is expected to create an additional 1600 jobs at Wang. The second tower, which will contain about 400,000 square feet, will be connected to the existing tower by walkways on each floor. Davison Construction Co. of Manchester, N.H., which built the first tower, will begin construction in early April. A Wang spokesman emphasized that the construction company will be recruiting tradesmen from local union halls.

### DIGITAL TO BUILD NEAR TEWKSBURY

Digital Equipment Corp. plans to build a world headquarters for its replacement parts manufacturing division on a 52 acre site near the Andover-Tewksbury line. The plant will create 500 to 600 new jobs as part of Digital's three-step program to bring 2500 to 3000 jobs to the Merrimack Valley.

The parcel of land must be rezoned by the town of Andover. In addition, Digital and the town must come to terms on sewer problems at the site. Plans call for construction of a three building complex totalling 400,000 square feet. It will include a two story office building, a manufacturing plant, and a warehouse. Digital has a plant in Tewksbury off Route 495 near Ames Pond.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	124,600	122,300	119,100
Employment .....	116,900	114,400	112,500
Unemployment .....	7,700	7,900	6,600
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.2	6.5	5.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	374	473	355
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,612	3,105	2,609

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,291	2,393	475	485	2,029
New Applicants .....	615	251	74	50	130
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	FEB 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	656
Openings Received .....	551

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	75.5	75.3	76.5
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.4	47.2	48.3
Construction	2.2	2.4	2.2
Trans. & public utilities	3.2	3.2	3.2
Wholesale & retail trade	15.7	15.7	15.6
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.0	2.1
Services & mining	12.0	12.0	12.5
Government	12.2	11.9	12.7
Manufacturing - Total	28.1	28.1	28.2

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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LOWELL LMA

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Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research  
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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP SLIGHTLY

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate increased marginally to 6.3 percent in March. This fractional rise places the Lowell rate 0.1 percentage point higher than the unadjusted statewide rate of 6.2 percent but well below the unadjusted national rate of 7.7 percent. One year ago the LMA's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent while the state and nation had rates of 5.3 and 6.6 percent respectively.

The moderate softness in the local economy may continue in the next few months as the effects of Proposition 2½ are felt; however initial claims for unemployment insurance decreased by 5.1 percent over the month and continued claims remained unchanged.

### CITY JOBLESS RATE RELATIVELY LOW

The City of Lowell stands near the midpoint of a list of the state's older cities ranked according to the severity of the unemployment rates for the month of March; Worcester - 5.9 percent; Cambridge - 6.1 percent; Lawrence - 6.1 percent; Pittsfield - 6.4 percent; Boston - 6.6 percent; Lowell - 6.7 percent; Chicopee - 6.8 percent; Haverhill - 6.9 percent; Springfield - 7.2 percent; Fall River - 9.6 percent; and New Bedford - 9.9 percent. Of the towns in the Lowell LMA Chelmsford experienced the lowest rate of 4.8 percent, followed by Tyngsboro 5.2 percent, Billerica 5.7 percent, Tewksbury 6.5 percent, Dracut 6.8 percent, Westford 7.1 percent, and Dunstable 12.7 percent.

### PASS PROGRAM

To improve potential government contract and sub-contract opportunities for small business, the Small Business Administration developed its Procurement Automated Source System (PASS). Using the latest computer technology, PASS is designed to boost the number of government contracts awarded to small firms. PASS permits small firms to register their capabilities and have them matched with the needs of the procuring agencies. Small businesses which manufacture textiles, clothing, electronics, production equipment, medical, dental and ophthalmic goods and which are in "labor surplus areas" may wish to register with PASS in order to increase

the probability of receiving defense procurement contracts. Under the current Department of Labor designation, in force through May 31, 1981, the town of Dunstable in the Lowell LMA is a "labor surplus area".

### VOCATIONAL - EDUCATION REPORT AVAILABLE

January's edition of this newsletters dealt with perspectives on the demand for machinists in the Lowell LMA and on the education and training issues associated with it. A 1981 Vocational Education and Workforce Planning Information Report for the Lowell LMA is now available. The report is intended to provide, school, business, and community planners with information to help them better anticipate economic trends and to supplement local input in planning vocational programs. The information contained in the report includes recent industry trends in Lowell LMA employment, an occupational profile of recession resilient/resistant industries, an analysis of labor demand by occupation to 1985, an examination of the findings of the statewide job openings survey, and a review of the major institutional sources of labor supply in the Lowell area.

To receive a copy of the Lowell LMA Vocational Education Report call or write the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Employment Security, Labor Area Research Department.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	122,700	124,600	119,500
Employment .....	115,000	116,900	113,500
Unemployment .....	7,700	7,700	6,000
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.3	6.2	5.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	355	374	269
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,611	2,612	2,446

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,146	2,280	500	459	2,014
New Applicants .....	654	264	105	65	217
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	MAR 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	715
Openings Received .....	210

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



# WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

# AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	76.1	75.4	77.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.8	47.3	48.8
Construction	2.2	2.1	2.3
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.2	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	15.8	15.7	15.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.1	2.1
Services & mining	12.1	12.0	12.6
Government	12.3	12.2	12.8
Manufacturing - Total	28.3	28.1	28.4

ITEMS	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$250.73	\$246.57	\$229.71
Average Weekly Hours	39.3	39.2	40.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.38	\$6.29	\$5.70

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### LOWELL JOB FAIR...A SUCCESS

A two day "Job Fair", co-sponsored by the Division of Employment Security, attracted more than 1800 people to the Lowell Memorial Auditorium earlier this month to discuss job possibilities with some 30 area firms. The favorable response from prospective employees provided a cost effective recruitment vehicle for the firms represented as well as an opportunity for jobseekers to talk to several employers in the same day. Prospective employees taking advantage of the job fair were from three general groups; those who are employed but looking to make a change, those who face possible layoffs due to Proposition 2½, and those who are currently unemployed. The earliest results indicate that at least 50 people were hired and other applications are still pending. The fair's unused funds, contributed by participating employers, were distributed in the form of seven \$200 scholarships to local area students.

### HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Finding skilled help in the local labor market remains difficult. High net demand occupations listed with the Job Matching Service include electrical engineers, programmers, systems analysts, and assemblers and wiremen of electrical equipment. In addition to jobs in the high technology areas, there are also many clerical, secretarial, and machinists openings. Employers are looking for some semi-skilled and unskilled people as well.

### RATES PLUNGE

The Commonwealth's unadjusted unemployment rate dropped one full percentage point in April to stand at 5.2 percent while the national rate fell by (0.7) to 7.0 percent. Although it is not unusual for unemployment rates to decrease in April, almost all labor areas have shown marked declines in their respective rates, thereby reflecting the statewide downswing. In Lowell the rate stands at 5.1 percentage (1.2) percentage points lower than last month but (.5) higher than April 1980.

### B & M IMPROVING LOWELL YARD

The Boston and Maine Railroad began a two-to-three year track improvement program at its Lowell Yard the third largest in the B & M system. At the same time, the railroad will be working with the Lowell National Park and the Lowell Historic Preservation

Commission to expand the track system for the city's trolley, used during the summer by park visitors.

### DIGITAL PLANS THREE PROJECTS FOR LITTLETON

Digital Equipment Corporation recently updated Littleton officials on three major development proposals which could create 4000 jobs in the town within three years. The three developments consist of a 495,000 square foot complex just off the town common; a 153,000 square foot facility off Porter Rd.; and a 300,000 square foot project off Taylor St. Plans call for engineering and administrative offices at the sites. Digital has assured town officials that no processing will be housed in any of the facilities.

### NEW PROGRAM PROMOTES SMALL BUSINESS IN DEFENSE CONTRACTS

The Department of Defense (DOD) has recently established a Defense Small Business Advanced Technology Program to capitalize on the inventiveness of small high technology firms. The program promotes creative solutions to scientific and technical problems related to defense by increasing the participation of small high technology firms in the DOD's research and development initiatives. A key feature of the program is its streamlined procedure for reducing small firms initial investment in proposal writing. Details of the new program are available from Hal C. Fischer, Director of Small Business and Economic Utilization Policy, Room 2A-340 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	119,900	122,700	118,800
Employment .....	113,800	115,000	113,300
Unemployment .....	6,100	7,700	5,500
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	5.1	6.3	4.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	332	355	306
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,080	2,611	2,119

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,177	2,302	498	456	1,970
New Applicants .....	717	313	102	61	127
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	APR 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,080
Openings Received .....	201

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

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	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	77.1	76.1	77.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	48.7	47.8	49.2
Construction	2.5	2.2	2.5
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.3	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	15.9	15.8	15.8
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.1	2.0
Services & mining	12.6	12.1	12.7
Government	12.2	12.3	12.9
Manufacturing - Total	28.4	28.3	28.2

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$247.11	\$250.73	\$230.47
Average Weekly Hours	39.1	39.3	39.6
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.32	\$6.38	\$5.82

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**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security  
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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### FOCUS ON TYNGSBORO

Periodically this profile focuses on towns in the Lowell LMA. This month we highlight Tyngsboro, a quiet rural-suburban community, which has been growing steadily over the years and now finds itself in the midst of a development boom. From a population of 4,200 in 1970, Tyngsboro has grown to almost 5,900 today and some are forecasting the town's population at more than 10,000 by 1995.

While the town continues to grow residentially, with five separate housing developments nearing completion, the lack of town sewer and water systems has not attracted industry as fast as some town officials would like. Nevertheless, employment increased by 179 percent from 1967 to 1979. Now that the Wang Institute of Graduate Studies has opened, the towns appeal should continue to increase. Although the town has suitable land and is accessible to Route 3, there are no developed industrial parks. The leading industries in town include Family Products Inc. and Piconics, Inc. a manufacturer of computer components. Manufacturing accounts for 35.2 percent of jobs in town. Wholesale and retail trade is next with 27.3 percent. Services follow at 23.1 percent and construction comprises 10.3 percent.

Tyngsboro's unemployment rate, which averaged 4.7 percent for 1980, stands at 4.9 percent for May.

### SEASONAL INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE

The Lowell LMA's unemployment rate rose .9 of a percentage point during May. It now stands at 6.0, three-tenths of a percentage point higher than the state's 5.7 percent unadjusted rate but more than a point lower than the unadjusted national rate of 7.1 percent. While employment increased by 1,100 during May, unemployment rose by 1,200 to a level of 7,300. Most of the increase may be attributed to normal seasonal variations arising from the end of the school year and the consequent addition of several hundred young adults and teenagers to the area's labor force. This is supported by the fact that both initial and continued claims declined by 2.1 and 6.7 percent respectively.

### TRANSIT GARAGE SLATED FOR TEWKSBURY

The Urban Massachusetts Transit Administration has

awarded a \$960,000 Federal grant to the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) to help construct a new bus storage facility in Tewksbury. The 18,000 square foot building will be erected on 5.8 acres off Clark Road near Stadium Plaza, which currently houses the LRTA maintenance facility. Groundbreaking on the \$1.2 million facility is planned for September, with completion due next May. The LRTA and the communities of Lowell, Chelmsford, and Billerica will pick up the remainder of the cost. Each community's assessment will be based on its percentage of usage.

### HIGH TECH GROWTH

The Lowell LMA experienced a 50.5 percent growth in high technology employment between the fourth quarter 1978 and the third quarter 1980. This increase translated into over 4,900 new jobs. Total high technology employment of 14,800 was 20.7 percent of the labor area's total employment. The strong performance of the high tech sector was paced by its two largest industrial groups, Office and Computing Machines, and Space Vehicles and Guided Missiles. Lowell's share of the statewide high tech employment, during this period, increased from 4.6 percent to 6.9 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	122,200	119,900	120,600
Employment .....	114,900	113,800	113,700
Unemployment .....	7,300	6,100	6,900
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.0	5.1	5.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	325	332	400
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	1,941	2,080	2,205

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,967	2,637	513	599	2,735
New Applicants .....	1,911	1,081	238	306	841
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	MAY 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,909
Openings Received .....	1,329

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	78.1	77.1	77.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	49.4	48.7	49.1
Construction	2.7	2.5	2.7
Trans. & public utilities	3.4	3.3	3.4
Wholesale & retail trade	16.4	15.9	15.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.6	12.6	12.7
Government	12.1	12.2	12.3
Manufacturing - Total	28.7	28.4	28.1

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$253.59	\$249.46	\$222.26
Average Weekly Hours	39.5	39.1	37.8
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.42	\$6.38	\$5.88

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



NEW NON AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT PEAK

### POPULATION SHIFT IN LOWELL LMA

The 1980 Census reveals that the population shift occurring within the Lowell LMA during the last 10 years mirrors a nationwide trend. Americans are leaving the nation's cities in favor of underdeveloped rural and less developed rural/suburban areas.

Overall 1980 figures for the city of Lowell show a population of 92,418, down 1,821 from the 1980 figure of 94,239. This represents a net decline of 1.9 percent. Nearby, suburban Chelmsford registered the LMA's only other decline (0.8 percent) dropping from 31,432 to 31,174 in 1980.

The LMA's biggest gainers were its rural/suburban communities Tyngsboro, Westford and Dunstable with respective increases of 35.2, 29.6, and 29.3 percent. These were followed by Dracut 16.7 percent, Billerica 16.0 percent, and Tewksbury 8.3 percent. Overall the LMA population grew from 203,782 to 213,557 an increase of 4.8 percent.

The population movement away from the cities may be related to the availability of housing. Given the trend of more people living alone, a stable housing stock can result in population decline because few people inhabit each available unit. Census statistics for the Lowell LMA seem to support this point. Between 1970 and 1980, the localities with the smallest rates of increase in housing stock were Lowell and Chelmsford at 10.8 and 14.7 percent respectively. These communities showed population declines of 1.9 and 0.8 percent. Tyngsboro and Westford, which showed the largest housing stock increases, 56.4 and 41.9 percent, had, as mentioned above, the largest population increases.

### UNEMPLOYMENT UP SEASONALLY

The Lowell LMA's economy followed a seasonal pattern in June as the unemployment rate climbed by 1.1 percentage points to 7.1 percent. A labor force swelled by the annual influx of students accounts for most of the rise in unemployment although the area is undoubtedly feeling some effects of a nationwide downturn. Initial claims jumped 25.8 percent over the month, while continued claims edged up 3.8 percent.

Even at its current 7.1 percent, the Lowell LMA's unemployment rate continues to remain below the unadjusted national rate of 7.7 percent. The sustaining structural soundness of the area's economy was evidenced by June's new record level for non-agricultural employment, 78,600 jobs.

### SHOE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS EXPIRE

Import agreements restricting shoe sales expired on June 30. Although the impact on Lowell's shoe manufacturing companies will not be felt immediately, the longer run implications could be quite severe. Even with the restrictions the footwear industry in the Lowell LMA lost 100 jobs in 1980. It now employs approximately 1,200 workers.

### NEW PUBLICATION READY

A new publication Labor Market Information, What's Available for Massachusetts, describing the major programs and publications of the Job Market Research Service of the Division of Employment Security, is now available. It contains a digest of the department's regular periodic reports, industry and special group studies, as well as directories of local offices. This report and all publications listed within it may be obtained free of charge by writing to Job Market Research Service, Massachusetts Division of Employment Security.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
LABOR FORCE .....	125,700	122,200	121,900
Employment .....	116,800	114,900	113,500
Unemployment .....	8,900	7,300	8,400
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.1	6.0	6.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	409	325	401
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,022	1,941	2,212

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	5,464	2,828	570	656	2,997
New Applicants .....	1,170	509	117	107	413
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	JUNE '81
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,715
Openings Received .....	142

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	78.6	78.1	77.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	49.1	49.4	48.9
Construction	2.9	2.7	2.8
Trans. & public utilities	3.4	3.4	3.4
Wholesale & retail trade	16.0	16.4	16.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.8	12.6	12.7
Government	11.8	12.1	11.9
Manufacturing - Total	29.5	28.7	28.8

ITEMS	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
Average Weekly Earnings	\$258.08	\$253.59	\$217.97
Average Weekly Hours	40.2	39.5	35.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.42	\$6.42	\$6.14

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PARK PLANNED FOR BILLERICA

Spaulding & Slye, a Burlington based real estate development firm, has announced plans for a 230,000 square-foot research and development park for Billerica. The Research Center will consist of five buildings on a 22 acre site at Manning Park, which is located on the Middlesex Turnpike approximately four miles from Route 128. Completion of the first 42,000 square-foot building is scheduled for the spring of 1982. The buildings will have two stories with truck docks at both levels, central air-conditioning, and 12 foot clearance ceilings. The Research Center is designed to serve the requirements of most high tech firms.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 2,900 due primarily to seasonal factors. Vacation plant closings, especially among leather and apparel firms of the nondurables sector of manufacturing, accounted for much of the drop. Total unemployment also ebbed when some of June's influx of students, who were unsuccessful in finding summer work, withdrew from the job market and were no longer counted in the labor force. A nonseasonal factor, the carpenter's strike, reduced employment in the construction trades by 300.

Following June's sharp rise (1.1 percentage points), the Lowell labor area's unemployment rate then descended two-tenths of a percentage point to stand at 6.9 percent for July. The decline leaves the LMA rate lower than the unadjusted national rate of 7.3 percent but still slightly higher than the unadjusted statewide rate of 6.7 percent.

### HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Local markets for skilled labor remain tight. High demand occupations listed with the Job Matching Service include, electrical engineers, systems analysts, programmers, nurses, secretaries, machinists, and assemblers and wirers of electrical equipment.

### ANALYSIS OF FILLED JOB OPENINGS

Lowell labor area data on Job Openings Received and Filled by Occupational Category and Hourly Wage Rates

indicates that the highest percentages of unfilled openings exist at both the lower and upper ends of the wage continuum. Only 26.6 percent of jobs under \$3.10/hour and 52.5 percent of jobs in the \$3.10 to \$3.34 bracket were filled. Moving up from these minimum wage jobs, one finds that 72.1 percent of the jobs in the \$3.35 to \$3.49 range were filled. At the higher end of the spectrum, 45.2 percent of the jobs in the \$5.00 to \$5.49 bracket were filled. The percentage of filled jobs then decreases to 25.9 for jobs in the \$5.50 - \$5.99 bracket and finally to 20.9 percent for jobs paying over \$6.00 per hour.

This disequilibrium at both ends of the hourly wage continuum does not defy explanation. For the lower paying jobs it seems that the high percentage of unfilled job orders is due to the fact that many of these jobs are in the secondary labor market (characterized by low wages, limited upgrading possibilities, and high turnover). For the higher paying jobs, the inability of labor supply to clear the market appears to be due to the rapid expansion of high technology and the consequent shortage of trained workers.

### NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

A new publication entitled Labor Turnover in Manufacturing 1970-1980 is now available. The data is drawn from a sample of manufacturers who report their labor turnover monthly.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
LABOR FORCE .....	124,700	125,700	121,700
Employment .....	116,100	116,800	114,200
Unemployment .....	8,600	8,900	7,500
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.9	7.1	6.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	308	409	311
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,965	2,022	2,853

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
New Applicants .....	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	JULY '81
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	INA
Openings Received .....	INA

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	75.7	78.6	74.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.4	49.1	48.3
Construction	2.6 *	2.9	3.0
Trans. & public utilities	3.1	3.4	3.1
Wholesale & retail trade	15.3	16.0	15.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.6	12.8	12.5
Government	11.6	11.8	12.3
Manufacturing - Total	28.3	29.5	26.4

\* Carpenters Strike

ITEMS	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
Average Weekly Earnings	\$245.25	\$258.08	\$218.65
Average Weekly Hours	37.5	40.2	36.2
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.54	\$6.42	\$6.04

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### GROUND BROKEN FOR PICONICS PLANT IN TYNGSBORO

Piconics, a manufacturer of microelectronic inductors and transformers, began construction in August of a new 20,000 square foot building to stand next to its existing facility at Cummings Road. The new plant, the first in the town of Tyngsboro to be financed by an industrial revenue bond, will house a least fifty new jobs. Piconics, the town's oldest industry currently employs 60 people but plans to expand to two and one-half times its present size.

### OTHER SMALL HIGH TECH FIRMS EXPANSIONS

In addition to the recent ground breaking at Piconics, other small high tech firms in the Lowell area have been growing. Efficiency Products is expanding locally in both Chelmsford and Westford and has recently opened a plant in Ireland. The firm manufactures power supplies, used by major companies such as Wang Laboratories.

Scopus Corporation, which began as a service company cleaning computer tapes and discs, is now starting a manufacturing operation in Lowell, engaged in the production of high technology discs and cartridges. At present, the firm is adding 23 additional engineers, technicians, and production workers at its Lowell plant. By the end of next year, Scopus will have expanded its nationwide total from 165 to 250 employees.

Electro Circuits is yet another small Lowell area manufacturer of printed circuits which is expanding. Aided by a \$1.5 million bond issue, the company plans to construct a 20,000 square foot plant adjoining its present facility on Walker Street in Lowell.

### MAXIMUM BENEFIT RATE INCREASES

The maximum unemployment insurance benefit rate will increase to \$156 per week for new claims filed on or after October 4, 1981. The rate is calculated at 57½ percent of the average weekly wage in covered employment, for the 12 months ending March 31. As of that date the average weekly wage in Massachusetts was \$269.93, up from \$245.48. Each individual's benefit rate will continue to be computed at one half the average weekly wage up to the new maximum payment of \$156. Thus, to qualify for the new maximum a worker must have an average weekly wage of \$312.

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
New Applicants .....	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

In addition to regular benefits, there is a \$6 allowance for each dependent child under 18. The maximum dependency allowance is \$78 or 50 percent of a claimant's weekly benefit rate, whichever is lower.

### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TO VETERANS CUT

Certain military personnel who leave the service will no longer be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits because of recent changes in Federal law. The change in eligibility requirements is a result of the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. The changes are effective for weeks claimed after August 13, 1981 for military personnel discharged on or after July 1, 1981. Benefits will be limited to those, who were discharged under honorable conditions, served at least 365 days, were not allowed to reenlist, and were not discharged for cause.

Members of the armed forces who choose not to reenlist or who receive a discharge under conditions other than honorable will not be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP SLIGHTLY

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate rose 0.7 of a percentage point in August to stand at 7.6 percent. The rise leaves the LMA's rate slightly higher than the 7.2 percent unadjusted rate for both the state and the nation.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	127,200	124,700	123,300
Employment .....	117,500	116,100	115,600
Unemployment .....	9,700	8,600	7,700
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.6	6.9	6.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	248	308	294
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,887	2,965	2,640

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	August 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	INA
Openings Received .....	

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	76.5	75.7	75.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.4	47.4	48.0
Construction	2.9	2.6	3.0
Trans. & public utilities	3.1	3.1	3.1
Wholesale & retail trade	15.3	15.3	15.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.4	12.6	12.3
Government	11.5	11.6	12.3
Manufacturing - Total	29.1	28.3	27.4

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$254.66	\$245.25	\$233.61
Average Weekly Hours	39.3	37.5	39.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.48	\$6.54	\$5.99

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security  
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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### HILTON HOTEL FOR DOWNTOWN LOWELL

A 250 room, \$13 million, 10 story Hilton Corporation hotel will be built in downtown Lowell. The announcement was made by Arthur Robbins, a Providence R.I. businessman, who said that Hilton has agreed to a hotel franchise located on the Rex and Smith parking lots. A partnership, Lowell Inn Associates, which includes Robbins, will build the Lowell Hilton. A \$10 million Industrial Revenue Bond, a low interest tax exempt financing vehicle, will fund the project. Project financing also includes a \$1.5 million urban development action grant. Ground-breaking should begin next spring and construction completed in 12 to 13 months. The first phase of construction would be for 250 rooms with another 150 added in a second phase. In addition to taxes, and the local economic impact of the hotel, which could generate between \$6 and \$8 million annually, some 250 full and part-time jobs will be created.

### MOTEL PLANNED FOR CHELMSFORD

Plans for a \$3 million, five story motel off Alpine Lane in Chelmsford were unveiled by Parlmont Realty Trust, owners of the proposed site. The proposed 144 room motel, with a projected gross revenue of \$1.5 million, is expected to produce approximately \$55,000 in real estate taxes annually. In addition, the project will create 12 full-time and 10 part-time jobs and generate some \$500,000 in annual "spin-off" revenue to nearby businesses, according to the owners. The motel would be operated as a licensor of a trade name with a major motel chain affiliation. If all goes smoothly construction would begin next spring and take about nine months to complete.

### TWO CETA PROGRAMS REDUCED

The administration has cut back federal funding for two CETA programs in Lowell; the Employment Opportunity Pilot Program (EOP), and the Public Service Employment (PSE) programs.

EOP was aimed at getting people off welfare and into the job market through intensive five-to-eight week job searches assisted by CETA. Welfare recipients who were unsuccessful in locating a job through the search were placed in a one year job training program and were then returned to the job search section. CETA will continue to operate the job search portion of the EOP but budget cuts will eliminate the one year training programs.

Under the PSE program people were employed at various jobs in municipal departments and nonprofit agencies. In response to budget cuts, CETA has gradually pared the number of workers employed in PSE programs. The few remaining PSE jobs will be terminated by October 1.

### NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

A new publication entitled 2.5 Million Jobs Variety and Distribution of Occupations in Massachusetts 1978 is now available. The principal purpose of this survey-based matrix is to develop reliable data on the occupational composition of the Massachusetts economy. The occupational profiles contained in this report are basic to understanding the effect on both individuals and institutions of the anticipated rapid restructuring of both factory and office jobs due to automation. This report may be obtained free of charge by writing to Job Market Research Service, Massachusetts Division of Employment Security.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate dipped 0.5 of a percentage point in September to stand at 7.1 percent. This places the LMA above the comparable unadjusted statewide rate of 6.5 percent but below the national rate of 7.3 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	122,900	127,200	122,100
Employment .....	114,200	117,500	114,300
Unemployment .....	8,700	9,700	7,800
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.1	7.6	6.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	322	248	244
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,400	2,887	2,144

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,788	2,790	529	477	1,955
New Applicants .....	859	396	106	87	191
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Sep. 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	611
Openings Received .....	413

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	76.4	76.5	75.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.3	47.4	47.9
Construction	2.8	2.9	2.9
Trans. & public utilities	3.4	3.1	3.4
Wholesale & retail trade	15.7	15.3	15.6
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.3	12.4	12.2
Government	10.9	11.5	11.7
Manufacturing - Total	29.1	29.1	27.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Aug. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$263.86	\$254.66	\$240.16
Average Weekly Hours	40.1	39.3	39.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.58	\$6.18	\$6.08

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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	Eugene J. Duddy, Director  Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research  Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor	

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS EXPANDS IN WESTFORD

Distributed Systems Corporation, a Chelmsford firm specializing in computer related distribution systems has moved to a 10 acre site in Westford. The company has also recently acquired Bedford Computer Systems, a manufacturer of microprocessor-based product identification and recognition systems.

Distributed Systems transferred 57 employees to its newly acquired 30,000 square foot site and expects to double its staff by March 1982.

### IRB APPROVED FOR MILLIPORE IN WESTFORD

A \$4,800,000 Industrial Revenue Bond for the Millipore Corporation of Westford was approved at the October 1st meeting of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA). Millipore is a manufacturer of products and systems for analysis and purification of fluids. The firm will purchase equipment and construct a 70,000 square foot warehouse and distribution building in the Westford Interchange Industrial Park. Millipore expects to create 100 new jobs.

MIFA is an independent state agency designed to promote employment and economic growth through a variety of incentives including industrial revenue bonds and loan guarantee packages

### INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS IN JEOPARDY

The Federal Government is contemplating eliminating or restricting the use of Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs), which could seriously retard the Lowell LMA's revitalization. IRBs have played an important role in financing more than \$30 million dollars of development in Lowell alone. They amount to more than half the financing involved with the proposed \$18 million dollar Hilton Hotel for the Smith Parking Lot. IRBs have two main attractions. They have low rates of interest - 60 to 70 percent of the prime rate - making them attractive to developers. They are tax free, making them equally appealing to the banking community. The tax free feature has the Internal Revenue Service considering abolishing them or restricting their use because of the lost revenue.

Proponents of the IRBs contend that the bonds promote new construction which begets new jobs and new tax revenue.

### NEW LOWELL LMA PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Annual Planning Information Report for the Lowell LMA is now available. It contains employment developments and outlook by industry projected through 1982, employment developments and outlook by occupation, population and labor force characteristics, and recent unemployment trends.

### Labor Market Information for Affirmative Action Programs 1981

is available as well. The information contained in this publication is general in nature and is provided to assist employers who are attempting to meet affirmative action obligations. Persons interested in obtaining copies of these reports should write to this address or call 727-5769.

### PRESS RELEASES

We would appreciate being added to companies' mailing lists for press releases that would have any bearing on the number of Massachusetts workers; for example, mass recruitment, plant expansion, plant consolidation, and layoffs.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EDGES UP

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate rose 0.4 of a percentage point in October to stand at 7.5 percent. The rise leaves the LMA's rate somewhat higher than the unadjusted state and national rates of 6.5 and 7.3 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	127,100	123,200	124,100
Employment .....	117,500	114,500	116,800
Unemployment .....	9,600	8,700	7,300
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.5	7.1	5.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	320	322	279
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,152	2,400	1,900

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	Information Not Available				
New Applicants .....					
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Oct. 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	Information Not Available
Openings Received .....	

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	76.7	76.4	76.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.3	47.3	48.3
Construction	2.8	2.8	2.9
Trans. & public utilities	3.2	3.4	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	15.5	15.7	15.4
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.0
Services & mining	12.5	12.3	12.4
Government	11.1	10.9	12.3
Manufacturing - Total	29.4	29.1	28.0

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings	Information Not Available		
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### MALL PROPOSED FOR TYNGSBORO-NEW HAMPSHIRE LINE

A 600,000 square foot shopping mall to be located astride the Tyngsboro-Nashua New Hampshire line has been proposed by State Properties of New England. The promoters of the project envision four large high quality department stores and as many as 100 smaller stores on the New Hampshire side of the mall (since there is no sales tax in N.H.). The Tyngsboro side of the 80 acre lot on Middlesex Road would be occupied by a bank, a restaurant, parking facilities and a large water retention basin from which drainage will eventually be directed through an underground culvert to the Merrimack river. The Mall will employ about 1,500 people, many of whom will be residents of the Lowell LMA. In addition, the town of Tyngsboro's tax base would be enlarged by about \$4 million dollars. The promoters of the mall are hoping to break ground sometime next year and anticipate that it will take 18 months to complete construction.

### COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EX-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

November marked the beginning of Project STRAIGHT one of several computer training programs for Proposition 1 victims. The six month program conducted at the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational School provides 1,000 hours of instruction at the low tuition cost of \$300.

The participants in this retraining program for careers in high technology will learn COBOL programming - the computer language used by business. Executives from major high technology firms are participating in this venture as members of an advisory steering committee. The Division of Employment Security is also represented on the steering committee to help enrollees learn job finding skills. The fifty initial participants include dismissed teachers, an ex-CETA administrator, and a former town manager. Several of the new students said they preferred the increased job security offered by high technology.

### IRBs APPROVED IN CHELMSFORD AND LOWELL

An \$350,000 Industrial Revenue Bond for Stickney and Poor Spice Co. of Chelmsford was approved at the November meeting of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA). The firm, a maker of condiments, will purchase an existing plant on Alpha Road, Chelmsford. Thirty new jobs will result. The Chelmsford IDFA will issue the bond. A \$2.5 million bond was approved for Compo Industries, a maker of synthetic leather materials in Lowell. The bond,

which will be used to purchase pollution control equipment for the firm's Market Street Plant, will be issued by the Lowell IDFA.

As noted in last month's newsletter, the federal government is contemplating elimination or restricting the use of IRBs. In their defense, Governor King has pointed out that in the past three years the MIFA has provided more than \$1 billion for 802 Massachusetts companies and that the firms involved expect their growth to result in 40,000 new jobs.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

The Lowell LMA unemployment rate fell 0.7 of a percentage point in November to 6.8 percent. This places the LMA above the comparable unadjusted statewide rate of 6.4 percent but well below the national rate of 7.9 percent.

### NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

An Occupational Profile of Hospital Employment in Massachusetts 1981 is now available. The survey provides a current source of employment patterns in the Massachusetts hospital industry. The report should be useful in the planning of training programs, the establishment of occupational information systems, and in the projection of employment requirements.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	128,900	127,100	122,600
Employment .....	120,100	117,500	116,800
Unemployment .....	8,800	9,600	5,800
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.8	7.5	4.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	407	320	286
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,371	2,152	2,068

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	4,424	2,457	480	477	1,697
New Applicants .....	1,041	478	116	94	123
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Nov. 1981
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	724
Openings Received .....	425

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period    <sup>2/</sup> Firm and Nonfirm

# WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

# AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	77.3	76.7	76.5
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.8	47.3	48.8
Construction	2.7	2.8	2.8
Trans. & public utilities	3.2	3.2	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	15.8	15.5	15.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.2	2.0
Services & mining	12.6	12.5	12.5
Government	11.4	11.1	12.5
Manufacturing - Total	29.5	29.4	27.7

ITEMS	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$266.26	\$256.71	\$240.86
Average Weekly Hours	40.9	39.8	39.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$6.51	\$6.45	\$6.16

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

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**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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LOWELL LMA

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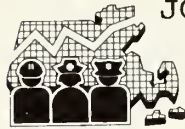




# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES

The Lowell LMA's unemployment rate rose 0.4 of a percentage point during the month of December to 7.2 percent. This was slightly higher than the state's 6.9 unadjusted rate but over a point lower than the unadjusted national rate of 8.3 percent. One year ago the Lowell LMA's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent while the state and national unadjusted rates were 4.9 and 6.9 respectively.

While the effects of the recession are now being felt in the Lowell LMA, it is important to reiterate that the LMA is still much better off than the vast majority of the country. The impact of this downturn should be less severe than the 1974-1975 recession as evidenced by the area's unemployment rate continuing to remain as much as a full percentage point below the national average.

### CLAIMS LOADS RISING

Increases in unemployment insurance claims further reflect the fact that the nation-wide recession has begun to affect the Lowell area. Over the month, initial and continued weeks claims rose by 39.3 and 14.5 percent respectively. Compared to December 1980, initial and continued claims have had respective increases of 36.2 and 15.7 percent.

### CONSTRUCTION PLANNED IN CHELMSFORD AND TEWKSBURY

Three new construction projects in the Lowell LMA were announced in late December. John M. Corcoran Co. of Milton will develop a 200,000 square foot office complex on Riverneck Road near Route 495 Chelmsford. The Tewksbury planning board approved construction of a \$12.6 million water treatment plant on River Road. Construction could begin this summer. Also, in Tewksbury, developer Howard Whitten submitted plans for a 32 unit housing development off Rogers Street at North Billerica Road.

The December issue of Massachusetts Profiles for the Lowell LMA is the last regular issue. Due to severe cuts in Federal funds, the Division of Employment Security regretfully announces that it must terminate the following

publications: Massachusetts Cities and Towns, Massachusetts Trends, Massachusetts Labor Turnover in Manufacturing, and Massachusetts Profiles for each of the 10 major labor market areas in the state.

The statistical data contained in these publications will be available in the Job Market Research library on the second floor of the Hurley Building. Some of the statistical information contained in these publications will be available during 1982 in a revised Massachusetts Employment Review publication. If you would like to be put on this mailing list, please write to the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, Charles F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114. Be sure to include your complete address and zip code. The information you provide us will be fed into our new computer program which will enable us to deliver information more efficiently. If you know of others who would like to be on our new mailing list, please have them send us their addresses.

If any additional funding becomes available during the year, we will add to our list of publications on a selective basis. Your comments on the value of and uses for the publications you have been receiving would help us to focus our decisions.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
LABOR FORCE .....	127,900	128,900	122,600
Employment .....	118,700	120,100	117,400
Unemployment .....	9,200	8,800	5,200
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.2	6.8	4.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	567	407	416
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,714	2,371	2,345

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	I N A				
New Applicants .....					
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	I N A
Openings Received .....	

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	77.4	77.3	76.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	47.9	47.8	48.8
Construction	2.5	2.7	2.6
Trans. & public utilities	3.2	3.2	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	16.2	15.8	16.1
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.1	2.0
Services & mining	12.6	12.6	12.5
Government	11.3	11.4	12.3
Manufacturing - Total	29.5	29.5	27.9

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	\$273.24	\$266.26	\$251.91
Average Weekly Hours	41.4	40.9	40.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 6.60	\$ 6.51	\$ 6.22

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### JOBS

Several new retail stores will be opening up at the Drum Hill Mall in Chelmsford. A CVS discount drug store will be a main tenant in a 25,000 square-foot building which is presently under construction. A First Bank branch office and a Dunkin Donuts shop are also being built at the mall. General Signal Corp. has purchased Tau-Tron Inc. of Chelmsford, a manufacturer of diagnostic test equipment for digital telecommunication systems. As a result of this take over Tau-Tron Inc. is expected to hire an additional 75 to 100 workers within the year. General Signals Corp. will help Tan-Tau Inc. gain access to new markets.

It is estimated that this year about 400,000 visitors will come to Lowell to see the Lowell National Historic Park. This will be a 20 percent increase over the previous year. The season runs from May 29 to October 11. There will be new exhibits to see such as the water power exhibits at two of Lowell's mill complexes.

The Hayden Software Co. has rented space in the Wannalancit Mills complex. This high technology firm is involved in testing computer programs for compatibility with various computer systems in educational and publishing industries. About 20 to 30 full-time employees will work at the facility. Some students will be hired part-time to test the programs. Merrimack Magnetics of Lowell laid off 28 production workers. Prince Packaging, division of Prince Macaroni, laid off 82 workers but they expect to be called back in six weeks. The City of Lowell may be forced to lay off 193 of its employees.

### CLAIMS ACTIVITY

Over the year the number of continued claims grew from 2,105 to 3,206 which was a 57.0 percent increase. The number of initial claims also grew by 43.4 percent. Statewide continued claims increased by 30.8 percent and initial claims 21.3 percent.

### EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS

Based on a survey taken in May 1982, the average hourly earnings of a production worker in the Lowell Labor Area were \$6.70. This was a 4.4 percent increase over the year. The hourly earnings for the state were \$7.43. Of the eight major labor areas in the state the Lowell Labor Area had the fourth highest hourly wage rate. The three labor areas with a lower hourly wage rate were: Fall River, \$5.72; Brockton, \$6.20; and New Bedford, \$6.68. The ones that were higher were: Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, \$7.41; Lawrence-Haverhill, \$7.54; Worcester, \$7.82, and Boston, \$8.05.

### AVERAGE WAGE OF JOB OPENINGS

The average wage of job openings received by the Lowell Job Matching Office from October 1981 to May 1982 was \$4.05 per hour. The following are the average wages per hour of job openings received: professional, technical and managerial, \$6.80; clerical, \$3.74; processing, \$4.33; machine trades, \$4.82; benchwork, \$4.40; structural, \$5.46; motor freight and transportation, \$4.39; packaging and materials handling, \$3.57; and others \$4.67.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

A new publication entitled Business Support Services Employment in Massachusetts 1975-1980 is now available. This publication contains information on the occupational composition of these industries, structural changes in these industries, and employment changes.

Another publication that is available is a resource and development guide entitled Structure of the Massachusetts Job Market. It provides detailed information on the occupational staffing patterns of selected industries and on distribution of selected occupations.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	May 1982	April 1982	May 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	131,100	130,000	125,200
Employment .....	120,700	120,600	117,800
Unemployment .....	10,400	9,400	7,400
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	8.0	7.2	5.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	466	500	325
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	3306	3619	2105

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3575	1474	485	540	1378
New Applicants .....	1522	663	118	221	738
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1</sup>	May 1982
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1393
Openings Received .....	181

<sup>1</sup> At End of Period <sup>2</sup> Month and Number

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	May 1982	April 1982	May 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	80,100	80,200	79,000
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50,400	50,400	50,100
Construction	2,900	2,700	2,800
Trans. & public utilities	3,400	3,400	3,300
Wholesale & retail trade	16,700	16,800	16,300
Finance, ins. & real estate	2,200	2,100	2,200
Services & mining	13,600	13,600	12,800
Government	11,600	11,800	12,700
Manufacturing - Total	29,700	29,800	28,900

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	May 1982	April 1982	May 1981
Average Weekly Earnings	\$261.30	\$259.49	\$253.59
Average Weekly Hours	39.0	38.5	35.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 6.70	\$ 6.74	\$ 6.42

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate for July 1982 was 8.5 percent. A year ago the rate was 6.5 percent. Of the eight major labor areas, the Lowell's unemployment rate increased the least. Other labor areas whose rates grew comparatively slow were Boston, 6.1 to 8.1 percent and Brockton, 8.3 percent to 11.6 percent. The labor areas that had the greatest growth in the rates were: Worcester, 6.3 to 11.3 percent; Lawrence-Haverhill, 6.8 to 11.9 percent; New Bedford, 9.0 to 15.5 percent; and Fall River, 8.8 to 14.0 percent.

### ACCESS ROAD

A \$2.3 million access road is to be built from the Lowell Connector to downtown Lowell. The state will pay \$1.1 million towards the cost of the road.

### PLACEMENTS

The Lowell Job Matching Office filled 1,600 job openings from October 1981 to July 1982. The following is a percentage breakout of job placements by occupations: clerical, 28.9 percent; services, 20.5 percent; packaging and materials handling, 12.6 percent; agricultural, 8.3 percent; benchwork, 7.7 percent; sales, 6.2 percent; structural, 5.8 percent, and all other, 10.0 percent.

### JOBS

Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge on Route 110 in Chelmsford plans a \$2 million expansion which will give the motel an extra 40 rooms and another 75 seats in the cocktail lounge. About 15 to 20 jobs will be created by this extra capacity.

Wang Laboratories has opened a \$15 million two-story plant at Pawtucket Boulevard in Lowell. The plant employs 3,000 persons.

### COMPARISON OF CLAIMANTS TO POPULATION

The following is a comparison of the percentage breakout within the Lowell Labor Market Area of where persons who collected unemployment benefits in May 1982 lived and the percentage of population of the cities and towns to the labor area. The city of Lowell residents made up 54.6 percent of the claimants while the city's populations accounted for 40.7 percent of the total. The towns whose percentages were about the same in both categories were: Dracut, 9.5 percent of the claimants and 9.4 percent of the population; Dunstable, 0.5 percent to 0.7 percent; and Tyngsborough, 2.5 percent to 2.5 percent. The towns whose percentage of claimants was less than their population were: Billerica, 12.4 percent to 16.2 percent; Chelmsford, 7.7 percent to 13.7 percent; Tewksbury, 9.4 percent to 10.9 percent; and Westford, 3.4 percent to 5.9 percent.

### MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Of the eight major labor areas in the state only the Lowell LMA's manufacturing employment is greater now than it was a year ago. It is 3.4 percent larger. Other labor areas that were not as fortunate as Lowell were: Fall River, which lost 16.7 percent of its estimated manufacturing jobs; Worcester, 8.2 percent; Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, 8.1 percent and Brockton, 4.2 percent.

### CETA SUMMER JOBS

The summer Lowell CETA is employing more than 1,000 youths between the ages 14 to 21 years old at \$3.35 an hour. This program also aids nonprofit organizations and the city of Lowell and surrounding towns by providing manpower that they would be unable to afford as a result of budgetary cut backs. About 580 CETA youths are employed in Lowell, 103 in Billerica; 83 in Tewksbury; 78 in Chelmsford; 77 in Dracut; 35 in Westford; 24 in Tyngsborough, and 5 in Dunstable.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	July 1982	June 1982	July 1981
LABOR FORCE .....	134.6	132.7	130.2
Employment .....	123.1	121.8	121.7
Unemployment .....	11.5	10.9	8.5
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	8.5	8.2	6.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	466	382	308
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	3915	3333	3134

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
All Applicants .....	2614	1100	370	290	513
New Applicants .....	446	177	153	63	112
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	July 1982
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1022
Openings Received .....	221

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	July 1982	June 1982	July 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	78,000	80,000	76,800
Nonmanufacturing - Total	48,200	50,100	48,000
Construction	3,000	3,000	3,000
Trans. & public utilities	3,000	3,500	3,000
Wholesale & retail trade	16,400	16,700	16,100
Finance, ins. & real estate	2,300	2,200	2,200
Services & mining	13,200	13,600	12,400
Government	10,300	11,100	11,300
Manufacturing - Total	29,800	29,900	28,800

ITEMS	July 1982	June 1982	July 1981
Average Weekly Earnings	\$250.22	\$268.37	\$245.25
Average Weekly Hours	35.9	39.7	37.5
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 6.97	\$ 6.76	\$ 6.54

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### BLS NEWS RELEASES NOW ELECTRONICALLY

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun an electronic news release service that permits persons interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain access directly from the computer in which they are stored. Information about electronic news releases is available from the Office of Publications, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20212. BLS data summary is available 24 hours a day on (202) 523-9658.

### NEW REPORT AVAILABLE

The Annual Planning Information Report Fiscal Year 1983 North-eastern Massachusetts is available. The APIR is devised to provide workforce planners with detailed demographic and socio-economic information, anticipated labor market conditions, and information on employment developments by occupations and industry.

### JOBS TRAINING ACT

The Jobs Training Act replaces the former Comprehensive Employment Training Act of 1978. The new law requires that at least 70 percent of the Jobs Training Act's money be spent on training. The Merrimack Valley will receive \$3.3 million in job training funds. The Lower Merrimack Valley Private Industrial Council was formed to oversee the funding. This new council replaces the former Private Industry Council and the Area Manpower Planning Board.

### JOBS

Two of the fastest growing companies in the Lowell Labor Area are Controlonics, located in Westford, and Scopus, located in Lowell. In the past five years Controlonics' sales has grown by 801 percent. This company manufactures speed radar detectors and telephone head sets. Scopus sales has grown by 422 percent. The company repairs and cleans computer discs packs.

M/A-COM plans to transfer its semiconductor division from Burlington to a former Wang Laboratories plant at Chelmsford Street in Lowell. The transfer should be completed by mid-July. In the beginning there will be only a few new job openings since most of the Burlington workers will be employed at the Lowell plant. However, when business improves there will be new job openings.

Mars Stores Inc., a discount department store, plans to lease the former King's department store at the Sears Plaza on Plain Street in Lowell. The Mars store will open in the spring of 1983.

### MICROELECTRONICS CENTER

A microelectronics center has been proposed for the state. It will be a \$40 million training facility to convert Massachusetts workers into computer equipment specialists. The towns in the Lowell labor area that are strong contenders

in the contest to have the center built within their boundaries are: Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, and Westford. Other communities in the labor area either do not have the available land that is needed or are not close to any major highways. Other labor areas that are making strong bids for the center are: Lawrence, Haverhill, New Bedford, Framingham, and Brockton.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE - MAILING LIST UPDATE

Massachusetts Profiles are available for ten major labor markets in Massachusetts: Boston SMSA, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg-Leominster, Lawrence-Haverhill, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, and Worcester. They are designed for people who want current regional labor market information for public policy or business decisions. If you wish to CONTINUE to receive Massachusetts Profiles after the end of the calendar year, please specify the Region(s) for which you wish to receive copies by writing to:

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security  
Job Market Research Publications  
C.F. Hurley Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982	Nov. 1981
LABOR FORCE .....	134,500	133,900	134,200
Employment .....	126,300	124,200	125,600
Unemployment .....	8,200	9,700	8,600
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.1	7.3	6.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	383	536	407
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	3236	3101	2551

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3258	1524	383	352	INA
New Applicants .....	1094	482	137	110	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Nov. 1982
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	503
Openings Received .....	194

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 7 November 1982

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982	Nov. 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	80.3	80.3	80.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50.5	50.4	50.7
Construction	2.9	3.0	2.9
Trans. & public utilities	3.4	3.4	3.4
Wholesale & retail trade	16.6	16.6	17.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.1	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	13.6	13.6	13.3
Government	11.9	11.6	11.9
Manufacturing - Total	29.8	29.9	29.4

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1982	Nov. 1981
Average Weekly Earnings	\$273.08	\$271.40	\$266.26
Average Weekly Hours	38.3	37.8	40.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.13	\$ 7.18	\$ 6.51

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

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**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA



JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

### JOBS

During July, 1983 K-Mart in the North Andover Mall will close as a result of unprofitability. More than 100 people are employed at the store.

A Mars Department Store has opened in the Lowell Plaza on Plain Street, adjacent to the Lowell connector.

### NEW CENSUS SHARE RATES

Monthly employment and unemployment figures for cities and towns are calculated by assigning each city or town its census share ratios of its labor area's employment and unemployment. We have recently gone from using the 1970 census to using the 1980 census. The towns that will now have a higher unemployment rate in relation to their labor areas than they did under the 1970 census are: Billerica, Chelmsford, and Lowell. The towns with a lower rate are; Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford.

### STATE'S ECONOMY WILL LAG BEHIND NATIONAL RECOVERY

According to a study by a economic forecasting firm, sponsored by the state's legislature, the Massachusetts economy should lag behind the national recovery for the next six months and not show any major improvement until the middle of next year.

### PLAN TO AID HIGH TECH INDUSTRIES

Senator Tsongas has written a bill that if passed by congress would aid the high technology industries in the United States. It would provide better training and education to high tech workers. The money for this proposal would come from: offshore oil sale revenue for the next 5 years, \$500 million per year; state governments, \$300 million; and private enterprise, \$200 million.

### TRAINING CENTER FOR SHOE WORKERS

The New England Shoe Foremen and Superintendent Association (NESFSA) is trying to form a training center which will provide instruction in all phases of shoe manufacturing. There are presently very few skilled shoe workers left in the Merrimac Valley area and most of them are over 60 years old. NESFSA has pledged \$175,000 and the Bay State Skills Corporation has also pledged an equal amount for the center. If everything falls into place the training center could be open by September. It will be located either in the Lowell, Lawrence, or Haverhill area. The United States shoe

manufacturers can only compete with foreign shoes in the better quality market. The purpose of this training center is to upgrade the skills of shoe workers so they will be able to produce a better quality shoe.

### COMPARISON OF CLAIMANTS TO POPULATION

The following is a comparison of the percentage breakout within the Lowell Labor Area of where persons who collected unemployment benefits in February 1983 lived and the percentage of population of these cities and towns to the labor area. The towns whose percentage of claimants is more than its percentage of population were: Dracut, 12.6 percent to 9.4 percent; Lowell, 46.6 percent to 40.7 percent; Dunstable 0.8 percent to 0.7 percent; and Tyngsborough 3.4 percent to 2.5 percent. The towns whose percentage of claimants is less than its percent of population were: Billerica, 14.3 percent to 16.2 percent; Chelmsford, 9.2 percent to 13.7 percent, Tewksbury 8.9 percent to 10.9 percent, and Westford, 4.2 percent to 5.9 percent.

### CLAIMS ACTIVITY

Over the year the number of continued claims grew from 3,358 to 4,019 which was a 19.7 percent increase. Statewide continued claims grew by only 2.1 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	January 1983	December 1982	January 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	132,100	133,100	132,200
Employment .....	123,000	125,200	123,600
Unemployment' .....	9,100	7,900	8,600
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.9	5.9	6.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	447	573	486
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	4,019	3,738	3,358

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3,564	1,583	378	355	INA
New Applicants .....	1,031	446	106	122	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	January 1983
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	616
Openings Received .....	278

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	January 1983	December 1982	January 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	79.5	81.4	79.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	48.5	50.8	48.2
Construction	2.1	2.5	2.3
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.3	3.5
Wholesale & retail trade	16.3	17.0	16.1
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	12.9	13.6	12.4
Government	11.7	12.2	11.8
Manufacturing - Total	31.0	30.6	31.1

ITEMS	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1982	Jan. 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	\$271.93	\$274.18	\$264.54
Average Weekly Hours	38.3	38.4	39.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$7.10	\$7.14	\$6.63

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA



JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

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### JOBS

Wang Laboratories plans to build a four-story office building on Industrial Avenue in Lowell. About 400 employees that install and service Wang products will work from the building. Most of these workers will be transferred from other Wang facilities.

The Allegros Star Market at the Sears shopping plaza on Plain Street in Lowell has closed as a result of a lack of business. About 40 employees will be laid off.

Itek Corporation on Concord Street in Lowell, maker of copy processing and phototypesetting equipment, has laid off 32 workers in the past month.

Construction of the Hilton Hotel in downtown Lowell could begin by August. It will be a \$20-plus million project.

### JOBS PROGRAM

Lowell has been classified as eligible for the Emergency Jobs Program. To be eligible an area must have an average unemployment rate for 1982 of at least 8.8 percent. Lowell unemployment rate for 1982 was 8.8 percent.

### NEW REPORT AVAILABLE

A new publication entitled Industrial Profile: Massachusetts and Labor Market Areas is now available. This publication identifies areas of the state with sizeable concentrations of employment for each important industry in the State. It also reviews the relative importance of an industry within the area. This facilitates an understanding of the state's diverse and changing industrial structure. In addition, it highlights industries and areas which may be particularly sensitive to economic changes.

### SUMMER JOB OUTLOOK

There should be more summer jobs this year than a year ago. The reasons behind this optimism are: first, the economy is improving; and secondly, employers can deduct 85 percent of the first \$3,000 in salaries paid disadvantaged youth aged 16 or 17 years old who meet certain criteria.

### COMPARISON OF THE UNEMPLOYED FROM THE CENSUS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DATA

The 1980 Census estimated that 135,310 individuals were unemployed in Massachusetts. Active jobseekers not working who were registered with the Employment Service in March 1980 numbered 114,209 (84.4 percent of the individuals identified by the Census). Within the Boston SMEA, the 1980 census estimated the number of unemployed individuals as 61,261. The Employment Service Automated Reporting System

(ESARS) recorded 52,002 unemployed individuals registered with the employment service as of March 31, 1980. This represents 84.9 percent of the unemployed individuals within the Boston SMEA enumerated by the census. Within the Balance of Massachusetts, 74,049 individuals were identified by the Census as unemployed. ESARS data indicates that in March 1980, active DES jobseekers not working within the Balance of Massachusetts numbered 62,207.

### TEXTILE FIRMS TO AUTOMATE

According to a report by a panel of the National Science Foundation, within the next decade many textile and apparel workers will lose their jobs as a result of automation. However, the industry should be able to increase its international competitiveness.

### FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION PROGRAM (FSC) EXTENDED

FSC was scheduled to end on March 31, 1983; however, it has been extended through September 30, 1983. In Massachusetts UI claimants who have collected all their benefits under both the State and FSC programs will be eligible for up to eight additional weeks of benefits. Claimants who exhaust state benefits in the future will be eligible for up to 10 weeks of FSC benefits rather than the 14 week maximum the program provided through March 31.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1983	Mar., 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	133,000	131,100	133,100
Employment .....	124,500	122,600	124,000
Unemployment .....	8,500	8,500	9,100
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	6.4	6.5	6.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	232	389	332
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	3743	3768	3732

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3575	1431	470	281	INA
New Applicants .....	804	335	92	65	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Mar. 1983
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	579
Openings Received .....	201

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 8 March 1983

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	March 1983	Feb. 1983	March 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	80.9	80.6	80.6
Nonmanufacturing - Total	49.8	49.5	49.5
Construction	2.0	2.0	2.2
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.2	3.5
Wholesale & retail trade	16.5	16.3	16.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.1
Services & mining	13.6	13.5	13.1
Government	12.2	12.3	12.4
Manufacturing - Total	31.1	31.1	31.1

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	March 1983	Feb. 1983	March 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	\$272.08	\$252.41	\$269.87
Average Weekly Hours	38.0	35.5	40.4
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.16	\$ 7.11	\$ 6.68

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### NEW REPORT AVAILABLE

Wage and Salary Data for Selected Occupations Boston and Worcester Metropolitan Areas Western and Northern and Southeastern Regions is available at the Division of Employment Security's Research Department. The tables in the report have been prepared to highlight wage and salary data for selected occupations surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of their Area and Industry Wage Survey programs. Occupations surveyed are those common to a variety of manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries. Further information, or copies of specific BLS area and industry wage surveys, is obtainable from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1603 JFK Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02203.

### FUTURE WAGE SURVEY

The Occupation/Industry Research Unit of the Division of Employment Security will collect wage and salary data through its own area wage surveys commencing in August 1983. All Regions of the state will be covered. Pending available funding for the proposed program, publications should commence in the spring of 1984.

### JOBS

Wang Laboratories of Lowell expects to grow by 30 percent over the next 12 months. MPC Inc., a manufacturer of printed circuit boards, is building a 10,000 square-foot manufacturing plant on Old Ferry Road in Lowell. The company expects to hire an additional 40 workers.

Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency has issued a \$1.3 million bond for the construction of a 32,000 square-foot building at the Interchange Industrial Park in Westford. This building will be used by Controlonics Corp., an electronics firm.

About \$2 million in industrial revenue bonds have been approved for renovation work at the Wannalancit Mills complex in Lowell.

### JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

The Job Training Partnership Act, which replaces CETA, will be administered by the state rather than from federal agencies. Next year Massachusetts will receive \$59,191,076 for the training program. The governor will be able to use 22 percent for administration, technical assistance to areas providing training services, incentive programs, and coordination of state educational services. The remaining 78 percent will go to the regional service delivery areas in the state. These areas will decide how they will help to decide what training programs will be offered. The councils will be made up of representatives from the

Division of Employment Security, welfare department, the education community, community-based organizations, and the business community.

### NEW JOBS IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS

The Robert Institute of America predicts that by the year 2,000 robots will have replaced 4.4 million workers but these robots will have created 1.5 million robot technician jobs. Forecasting International Ltd. believes that as a result of the growth in the number of elderly that 600,000 new jobs as geriatric social workers will be created in the next 20 years. Also, health care, public housing and mass transportation should grow to meet the elderly needs. The high cost of new homes will cause Americans to refurbish old homes. This will create 490,000 jobs in housing rehabilitation over the next 18 years.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate for May 1983 was 5.3 percent. This was the lowest rate of the 8 major labor areas in the state. The Boston SMSA has the next lowest rate with 5.6 percent. The Fall River Labor Area's rate of 9.8 percent was the highest among the major labor market areas in the State. The State's rate was 6.5 percent and the national rate was 9.8 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	May 1983	April 1983	May 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	146,700	145,900	148,500
Employment .....	136,400	135,200	135,100
Unemployment .....	10,300	10,700	13,400
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	7.0	7.3	9.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	278	476	466
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2658	3142	3306

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3987	1596	407	516	--
New Applicants .....	989	420	81	188	--
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	May 1983
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1607
Openings Received .....	255

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 8 May 1983

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	May 1983	April 1983	May 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	82.3	82.0	81.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50.3	50.5	50.9
Construction	2.3	2.2	2.6
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.3	3.4
Wholesale & retail trade	16.6	16.6	16.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services & mining	13.8	13.9	13.6
Government	12.1	12.3	12.4
Manufacturing - Total	32.0	31.5	30.9

ITEMS	May 1983	April 1983	May 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	\$284.4	\$281.39	\$261.30
Average Weekly Hours	38.8	38.6	39.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.33	\$ 7.29	\$ 6.70

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

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**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### JOBS

The Lowell Food Warehouse on Chelmsford Street owned by Victory Markets has closed. The store's 30 to 40 employees have been offered work in other Victory Markets stores in Acton, Maynard, and Ayer. The new owners hope to turn the store into a R & D facility.

Construction has begun on the 113 acre Shawsheen Technology Park in Billerica. The park will house research and development and light manufacturing facilities and offices. The first building to be completed will be a 20,000 square foot research and development and office building for Mast Microwave of Burlington.

### FUTURE JOBS MAY REQUIRE LOWER JOB SKILLS

Stanford's Institute for Research on Education, Finance and Government forecast that the new technology will lower job skills required for most U.S. workers. We are changing to an information society but the information is being stored in machines and not in the minds of humans. In the near future computers will do many tasks formerly done by office personnel.

### NEW REPORT AVAILABLE

Job Opportunities for the 80's will be available within the next 2 months. The report is designed to meet the needs of individuals in Massachusetts who are currently looking for a job, planning a career, or seeking a career change. It is also useful to vocational guidance counselors and job placement personnel. The 80 selected occupations are expected to provide good employment opportunities throughout the 1980's.

### JOBLESS HEALTH CARE

A jobless health care bill has been passed by the House and is now going to the Senate. The bill includes grants to the State and requires employers to continue health insurance for laid-off workers for 90 days. It also provides money for hospitals that treat the poor. States would be required to charge small fees for health services and could impose premiums to be deducted from the worker's unemployment check.

### OUTLOOK FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

The U. S. Department of Labor has published a new report entitled Employment Outlook for 1983 College Graduates in New England. According to the report New England's 1983 college graduates face the worst employment prospects in over two decades. Recruiting activity was less than 1982; therefore, making it the second down year in a row for college graduates. Graduates with technical and health-related degrees fared better than their counterparts in

in other disciplines. But even these graduates had fewer job offers from which to select compared to other years. College graduates entering the labor force in the 1980's will face similar conditions to those entrants of the 1970's. A surplus of between 2 and 3 million college graduates should occur during the 1980's. As many as one out of five college graduates will end up in jobs not requiring a degree. It is estimated that 3.8 million college graduates currently in the labor force are either underemployed or unemployed.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate for July 1983 was 5.2 percent. This was the lowest rate of the 8 major labor areas in the state. The unemployment rates of the following areas were: Boston, 5.3 percent; Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, 6.4 percent; Worcester, 6.9 percent; Lawrence-Haverhill, 7.2 percent; Brockton, 7.6 percent; New Bedford, 9.1 percent; and Fall River, 10.2 percent.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	July 1983	June 1983	July 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	136,500	135,800	137,300
Employment .....	129,300	127,400	125,000
Unemployment .....	7,200	8,400	12,300
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	5.2	6.2	8.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	292	327	466
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,722	2,368	3,915

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	3399	1389	358	353	--
New Applicants .....	728	342	66	88	--
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	July 1983
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	1100
Openings Received .....	330

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 8 July 1983

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	July 1983	June 1983	July 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	80.4	82.6	78.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	48.0	50.3	48.0
Construction	2.4	2.5	2.7
Trans. & public utilities	2.9	3.4	2.9
Wholesale & retail trade	16.3	16.5	16.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.3	2.2	2.3
Services & mining	13.2	13.8	13.2
Government	10.9	11.9	10.7
Manufacturing - Total	32.4	32.3	30.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	July 1983	June 1983	July 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	\$285.09	\$288.73	\$250.22
Average Weekly Hours	39.0	38.6	35.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.31	\$ 7.48	\$ 6.97

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Job Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.	Massachusetts Division of Employment Security  Kristin S. Demong, Director  Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor	Requests for information or copies should be addressed to:  Labor Area Research Department Mass. Division of Employment Security C. F. Hurley Building - Government Center Boston, MA 02114 (617) 727-5769
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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### FASTEST GROWING JOB MARKET IN THE STATE

The Lowell Labor Area has now the distinction of having the fastest rate of growth in the number of jobs in the past year of any major Massachusetts Labor Area. Nonagricultural employment for Lowell from November 1982 to November 1983 increased by 4.3 percent. Manufacturing employment grew by 12.8 percent while nonmanufacturing employment decreased by 0.8 percent. Statewide nonagricultural employment grew by 1.1 percent; manufacturing, 2.7 percent; and nonmanufacturing, 0.7 percent.

### MORE COMPANIES EXPECT TO HIRE WORKERS THIS YEAR

According to a survey conducted by Manpower Inc. 16 percent of the Lowell's area companies with 50 employees or more expect to hire additional workers in the next three months. Last year a similar survey showed that only 7 percent of the companies expected to hire more employees. The survey also showed that only 3 percent of the firms expect staff reductions while 13 percent a year ago expected to reduce their staff.

### NEW REPORTS AVAILABLE

A new publication entitled Occupations in Trade, Transportation, Communications and Utilities -1982 is now available. This publication has detailed occupational staffing patterns for 12 two-digit and 50 three-digit industries. Occupational staffing patterns have changed considerably within many industries. These changes reflect the continued growth in automation, new product development, and the strengthening of sales staffs.

Another publication that is available is a new updated version of Job Market Research Products and Services. This labor market information directory includes listings and description of Job Market Research publications through September 1983.

### THE TEN LARGEST INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY

The ten largest industrial property owners in the city of Lowell listed in order of the amount of their 1983 assessment were: Wang Laboratories, Prince Macaroni, Boott Mills, Courier Citizen, General Electric, Pellon Corp, Avco Corp., Compo Industries, Joan Fabrics, and Sonoco Products.

### EMERGENCY VETERAN 'S JOB TRAINING ACT OF 1983

Employers can receive up to \$10,000 to train and hire eligible unemployed veterans of the Vietnam War or Korean conflict. The program will pay employers half the cost of training. The training period must last for from 3 to 15 months. The position should be in a growth industry where the demand for labor exceeds the supply. An employer cannot lay off a worker to fill the position with an eligible veteran. Adequate facilities for training must

be available, wages and benefits must be no less than those normally paid and training cannot be for a position for which the veteran already qualifies. Interested veterans or employers should contact DES Summer Street Office.

### JOBS

R F T Properties has begun construction of a \$4 million high technology office and research facility at 228 Billerica Road in Chelmsford. The building should be completed by the spring of 1984. Once it is completed about 300 persons will work there.

### STUDY HURTS PASSAGE OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED

A new federal study shows that the correlation between job loss and the termination of health insurance is less than previously believed. It was believed that about 5 million jobless workers and their dependents are without health insurance but the study estimated that only 1.4 million of these workers are without insurance. Many of the unemployed have protection through a spouse's insurance plan. The study has greatly hurt the chances that Congress will pass a health insurance plan for the unemployed.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982
LABOR FORCE .....	140,000	137,500	134,900
Employment .....	133,600	129,800	127,300
Unemployment .....	6,400	7,700	7,600
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	4.5	5.6	5.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	243	202	383
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	1749	1864	3236

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	1840	820	268	200	--
New Applicants .....	662	313	92	91	--
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Nov. 1983
Unfilled Openings <sup>2/</sup> .....	368
Openings Received .....	374

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 8 November 1983

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	64.6	63.4	61.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50.2	49.7	50.6
Construction	2.4	2.5	2.6
Trans. & public utilities	3.3	3.3	3.3
Wholesale & retail trade	16.4	16.2	16.6
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.3	2.3	2.2
Services & mining	13.7	13.6	13.7
Government	12.1	11.8	12.2
Manufacturing - Total	34.4	33.7	30.5

ITEMS	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 306.64	\$ 307.04	\$ 273.08
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.4	38.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.59	\$ 7.60	\$ 7.13

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

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Michael S. Dukakis, Governor  
Evelyn F. Murphy, Secretary  
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## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



### JOBS

Grace Shoe Manufacturing Company Inc., a manufacturer of women's shoes in Lowell, will lay off 305 workers in early March. The Lowell operation will be consolidated to a modern plant in Somersworth, New Hampshire called Miller Shoe.

Employment at Raytheon's Lowell plant should remain steady, for the demand for the Sparrow missile that it produces remains strong. The Sparrow missile is a semi-active, radar-guided ship-to-air and air to air weapon.

The Central Savings Bank in Lowell has been awarded a \$1.2 million industrial revenue bond to expand its customer service department. The bank will renovate 23,000 square feet in two adjacent buildings on Prescott Street.

Consolidated Design, a producer of printed circuit boards in Lowell, received a \$1.8 million dollar industrial revenue bond to buy new equipment and a wastewater pretreatment system. The new equipment will allow the firm to create 136 new jobs.

Tabor Corporation in Westford was awarded a \$5.5 million industrial bond to purchase equipment for its production of memory storage disks used in the computer industry. About 340 new jobs will result from the purchases of this equipment.

### PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT

A Seattle PIC (which has responsibility for administering job training programs) has signed a performance-based contract with the Griffin Business College to train 225 students. Participants can choose from four programs - full charge bookkeeper, computer accounting specialist, data entry operator, and word processing receptionist. It will cost \$3,800 per trainee. What is unique about this contract is that the PIC only pays for students that are placed in jobs. This train-now, pay later plan may become a model for other PIC's in the nation.

### CHELMSFORD CONSIDERING SELF-SUPPORT DAY CARE

The Chelmsford school committee is considering a program of combining preschool and extended-day child care programs within the public school system. This would allow both parents or single working parents to work. Of this program is approved it will be the first of its kind in the state. The programs will not cost the town anything for the parents that use it will pay for it.

### HOUSING SALES INCREASED IN THE LOWELL AREA

According to the Massachusetts Association of Realtors the number of sales of houses in the Lowell area increased 89

percent over the year. This volume was among the highest increase of any region in the state. Statewide the growth in sales was only 58 percent and nationwide it was 37 percent. The growth in the high technology industry in the area has been credited with the area's strong showing in home sales.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate went from 4.5 percent in December 1983 to 5.5 percent in January 1984. This increase was the result of seasonal factors such as slowdowns in the construction and wholesale and retail trade industries. Also, some firms close down for inventory at this time.

### INCREASE IN LOWELL SCHOOL MINORITY ENROLLMENT

Between 1978 and 1982 the White school enrollment in the city of Lowell decreased by 16 percent. The number of Hispanic students increased by 25 percent. Asian enrollment grew by 590 percent. Statewide White school enrollment decreased by 18.4 percent, while Hispanic grew by 19.4 percent and Asian expanded by 55 percent.

### SUMMER JOBS

The city of Lowell Recreation Department is now accepting applications for positions in its 1984 summer playground and pools program. Interviews will be held later this spring. For further information, contact Recreation Director at 454-8821 extension 279.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1983
LABOR FORCE .....	141,800	141,800	132,100
Employment .....	134,000	135,400	123,000
Unemployment .....	7,800	6,400	9,100
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	5.5	4.5	6.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	284	346	447
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2470	1957	4019

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence  
<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	1738	698	316	159	INA
New Applicants .....	528	207	92	65	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	Jan 1984
Openings Received .....	322

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

Vol. 1 January 1984

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Jan. 1984	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	87.1	88.7	86.6
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50.5	52.8	50.4
Construction	2.0	2.3	1.8
Trans. & public utilities	3.0	3.1	3.1
Wholesale & retail trade	17.2	18.3	17.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.5	2.4	2.5
Services & mining	13.7	14.3	13.7
Government	12.1	12.4	12.1
Manufacturing - Total	36.6	35.9	36.2

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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LOWELL LMA

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# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



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### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate for March 1984 was 4.3 percent. Once again the Lowell Labor Area's rate was the lowest for any major labor area in the state. The State's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.3 percent.

### NONFARM EMPLOYMENT UP

Nonagricultural employment increased almost six percent between March 1983 and March 1984. Manufacturing increased by 4,400 jobs. Nonmanufacturing grew by 1,400 jobs, with services and wholesale and retail trade accounting for the bulk of the gain.

### MORE JOBS FOR LOWELL LMA

Lowell will receive a \$4.2 million state grant to help finance a 1,200-car parking garage which is needed for the Wannalancit Office and Technology Center. Optical Fiber Technology, Inc., a manufacturer of fiber optic connectors, which are used by the data communications and telecommunications industries, will build a 31,000 square foot plant in Manning Industrial Park in Billerica. The structure will be ready for occupancy in October.

Calvert, an off-price clothing store, has opened a branch store in Stadium Plaza in Tewksbury. The store will employ 150 people.

Wang Laboratories has purchased the Town House Motor Inn and Restaurant on Chelmsford Street in Lowell. Wang may use the property for additional manufacturing, office space, or parking space.

Apollo Computer of Chelmsford, manufacturer of small powerful computer systems called intelligent desktop work stations, had first quarter sales of \$36.7 million up from \$14.1 million during the same period a year ago. Apollo plans to hire additional workers at all levels to meet the increase in demand for their products.

Two businesses in Lowell received industrial revenue bonds. International Nut Corp. received a \$1.2 million bond which should generate 20 new jobs. Highland Towel Supply Co., Inc. a supplier of hospital uniforms and linens received \$1,053,000 and expects to expand its payroll by 50 workers.

### OCCUPATIONAL BREAKOUT OF APPLICANTS REGISTERED AT LOWELL OFFICE

The major occupational categories of applicants by rank in the Lowell office in March 1984 were: clerical, 19.8 per-

cent; professional, technical, and managerial, 14.9 percent; structural, 12.3 percent; benchwork 12.1 percent; packaging and material handling, 10.4 percent; and service, 10.2 percent.

The five most prevalent occupations being sought by the applicants were material handlers, electronic assemblers, secretaries, office clerks, and heavy truck drivers.

### SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH

Summer jobs for Lowell area youth are expected at fast food chains, ice cream stands, summer camps, and Benson's Animal Park in Hudson, New Hampshire. Employers are encouraged to contact local DES offices for further information on the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) program or to list job openings.

### SUMMER WORK FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTHS

The Office of Employment and Training is expecting to place 1,000 disadvantaged youths of the Lowell Labor Area in jobs in the public and private sectors this summer. Disadvantaged youths between the ages 14 and 21 can apply for summer employment at the OET office, 10 Kearney Square, Room 300, in downtown Lowell. To be eligible for the program a youth must fall into one of the following categories: receiving public assistance, handicapped, a foster child, client of Division of Youth Services, and be within low-income guidelines.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	MARCH 1984	FEB. 1984	MARCH 1983
LABOR FORCE .....	142,400	141,700	133,500
Employment .....	136,200	135,200	125,200
Unemployment .....	6,200	6,500	8,300
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	4.3	4.6	6.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	269	300	232
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2,238	2,242	3,743

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence

<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	1,521	568	319	175	INA
New Applicants .....	349	205	85	71	INA
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	MARCH 1984
Openings Received .....	456

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm



## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MARCH 1984	FEB. 1984	MARCH 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	37.9	36.6	32.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	51.1	50.4	49.7
Construction	1.3	1.3	2.0
Trans. & Public utilities	3.0	3.1	3.1
Wholesale & retail trade	17.2	17.2	16.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.4	2.5	2.3
Services & mining	14.3	13.7	13.4
Government	12.4	12.1	12.0
Manufacturing - Total	36.8	36.2	32.4

ITEMS	MARCH 1984	FEB. 1984	MARCH 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	293.76	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	38.7	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	7.72	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

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**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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LOWELL LMA

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## Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

University of Massachusetts  
Depository CopyUnemployment Rate

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate for May 1984 was 3.0 percent which is the lowest for any major labor area in the state and one percentage point lower than the State's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.0 percent. The Boston SMSA rate was 3.5 percent and the Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA rate was 5.2 percent, 2.2 percentage points higher than the Lowell LMA rate.

Employment Growth Still Strong

Over the year, nonfarm employment grew by 5.9 percent. Most of this growth was the result of 10.7 percent increase in Manufacturing employment which is being propelled upward by the growing number of workers employed by high tech firms. Nonmanufacturing increased by 2.7 percent with the growth taking place in wholesale and retail trade which grew by 2.3 percent and the services division which expanded by 7 percent.

Jobs Expansion

Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in Chelmsford is adding a five-floor, 65 room addition and is scheduled to open August 1. It is expected that the rooms will be mostly occupied by businessmen.

A Westford Regency Hotel is due to open in January in Westford. It will have 189 rooms. These hotels should increase job opportunities for service workers.

Brickstone Properties Inc. plans a \$35 million renovation of the Massachusetts Mills and Boot Mills complexes in Lowell. After they have renovated they will be leased for research and development, light manufacturing, and professional offices.

Davor Corp. which makes integrated voice and data computer systems, is moving its corporate headquarters from Merrimack, New Hampshire to the Field Industrial Park in Billerica. The company employs about 120 people and by the end of the year its employment level will be 150. The company moved because of the availability of skilled personnel, proximity of Route 128, and the accessibility of airports and, therefore, customers.

Dupont deNeMours and Co. will open a new biomedical research laboratory in Billerica in July. It will employ more than 100 research scientists. Most of the research at the facility will be directed at developing better diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to cancer and infectious diseases.

Hall-Mark Electronics, a national distributor of electronics parts and systems, will rent 20,000 square feet at Pinehurst Park in Billerica.

A two-story multi-tenant facility for high technology companies, the Chelmsford Tech Center, is being built at the intersection of Route 3 and 129 in Chelmsford. It is expected to be completed by September 1.

High Concentration of High-Tech Employment in the Lowell Labor Area

In the Lowell Labor Area, fourth quarter 1983, high technology manufacturing workers made up 56.6 percent of manufacturing employment or 27.3 percent of total covered employment. In the two neighboring labor areas of Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA and the Boston SMSA, high technology employment made up 55.6 percent and 45.8 percent respectively of manufacturing employment. For total covered employment the percentages were 21.9 percent for the Lawrence-Haverhill and 8.7 percent for the Boston SMSA. Statewide, high technology employment represented 39.1 percent of manufacturing and 9.4 percent of total covered employment. Clearly, high tech employment has contributed to the low unemployment rate of the Lowell LMA.

Hourly Wage Rates for Production Work Average \$7.22 in Lowell Labor Area

In April 1984, the average hourly earnings for production workers in all manufacturing in the Lowell Labor Area was \$7.72. Of the eight major labor areas, four have a higher hourly rate. Those with the higher rates were Boston, \$9.08; Lawrence-Haverhill, \$8.43; Springfield-Holyoke, \$8.39; and Worcester, \$8.56. The labor areas with lower rates were; New Bedford, \$7.48, Fall River, \$6.78; and Brockton, \$6.52. Statewide the average hourly rate for production workers was \$8.32.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT  
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE <sup>1/</sup> UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH <sup>2/</sup> AND YEAR		
	May 1984	April 1984	May 1984
LABOR FORCE .....	142,100	144,100	134,100
Employment .....	137,800	138,500	127,200
Unemployment .....	4,300	5,600	6,900
Unemployment Rate <sup>3/</sup> .....	3.0	3.9	5.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	171	325	278
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	1,591	2,002	2,658

<sup>1/</sup> By Place of Residence<sup>2/</sup> Week That Includes the 12th of the Month<sup>3/</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

## AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS <sup>1/</sup>	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants .....	1,905	832	281	396	
New Applicants .....	646	305	60	150	
(This Month)					

<sup>1/</sup> Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS <sup>1/</sup>	May 1984
Openings Received .....	384

<sup>1/</sup> At End of Period <sup>2/</sup> Farm and Nonfarm

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT '000's		
	May 1984	April 1984	May 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	90.2	89.5	85.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	53.1	52.6	51.7
Construction	2.2	2.0	2.5
Trans. & Public utilities	3.0	3.0	3.0
Wholesale & retail trade	18.1	17.8	17.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	2.5	2.5	2.4
Services & mining	15.2	15.0	14.2
Government	12.1	12.3	11.9
Manufacturing - Total	37.1	36.9	33.5

ITEMS	May 1984	April 1984	May 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	305.37	302.62	284.4
Average Weekly Hours	39.0	39.2	38.8
Average Hourly Earnings	7.83	7.72	7.33

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

**LABOR FORCE** - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

**TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT** - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT** - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS** - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

**GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA** - Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford.

LOWELL LMA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Research and Policy Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor.

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job market research





# Massachusetts Profiles

## Lowell LMA



JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASES TO 3.7 PERCENT

The Lowell Labor Area's unemployment rate of 3.7 percent for July 1984 was 0.6 percentage points lower than the state's seasonally unadjusted rate of 4.3 percent and less than one half the national rate of 7.5 percent. The surrounding major labor areas had the following rates: Boston SMSA, 3.7 percent; the same as Lowell's; Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA, 5.6 percent; and Fitchburg-Legumister SMSA 4.5 percent.

### CLAIMS ACTIVITY SHOWS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Over the year the number of continued claims decreased by 22 percent from 2,722 to 2,121. Statewide, continued claims decreased by 26.0 percent. In the adjacent Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA, the decline was 8.6 percent and in the Boston SMSA the drop was 17.7 percent.

### EMPLOYMENT SHOWS SEASONAL DIP

Nonagricultural employment dipped by 2,600 jobs in the nonmanufacturing sector. Construction and finance employment remained stable and similar to their 1983 trends. The remaining nonmanufacturing divisions showed seasonal declines.

### JOB EXPANSION FORESEEN

Apollo Computer Inc. has opened an educational center in Chelmsford. When the facility is completed it will have 13 classrooms, five laboratories, and 30 instructors. Sky Computer Inc., a manufacturer of computer signal processors, has made plans to occupy an additional 12,000 square feet of space at Lowell's Boot Mills where it is now located. Construction of the \$40 million Stedman St. high-tech park in Lowell will begin in October 1984.

### FIRST IN THE NATION IN BUILDING PERMITS

In the first quarter of 1984, the city of Lowell led the country's 200 largest cities in the percentage increase over-the-year in the value of new building permits. The value of permits went from \$4.7 million to \$80 million. Some of the permits that put Lowell into first place were: a \$38 million hydroelectric plant; an \$8 to \$12 million corporate training center for Wang Laboratories; and an \$8.5 million city parking garage.

### PERCENTAGE OF NONHIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES GROWS WITH GOOD ECONOMIC TIMES

When a labor area experiences good economic times, the percentage of applicants in the local DES Job Matching office with less than 12 years of schooling usually increases since those with the better education more readily obtain employment. In June, 1984, the percentage of active applicants in the Lowell office that had less than a high

school education was 39.6 percent, while statewide it was 27.9. Only a small percentage of this difference in labor force absorption is a result of a dissimilar educational composition of the two populations. According to the 1980 census, the percentage of Lowell Labor Area residents over 17 years of age that had less than a high school education was 29.0 percent while statewide it was 26.4 percent.

### OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF LOWELL LABOR FORCE

According to the 1980 census, 14.2 percent of the residents in the Lowell Labor Area are employed in precision production, craft and repair occupations while statewide it was 11.6 percent. Some of the other occupations in which the percent of the residents of the Lowell LMA is higher than the state's average are: engineers, 2.7 percent versus 1.9 percent; and machine operators, assemblers and inspectors, 13.6 percent versus 10.0 percent. However, the percentage of workers in service occupations in the Lowell LMA is less than the statewide percentage, 11.5 versus 13.5 percent.

### MANY LOWELL LABOR MARKET RESIDENTS TO WORK OUTSIDE OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

According to the 1980 census, about 43 percent of the employed residents in the Lowell LMA worked outside the LMA. All the communities within the labor area, except the city of Lowell, had less than 25 percent of their working residents employed within their own communities. The city of Lowell had 51.6 percent of its residents employed within the city.

### LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	July 1984	June 1984	July 1983
LABOR FORCE .....	145,300	145,600	136,500
Employment .....	139,900	140,000	131,400
Unemployment .....	5,400	5,600	7,100
Unemployment Rate 3/ .....	3.7	3.9	5.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims .....	345	308	292
Continued Weeks Claimed .....	2121	1697	2722

1/ By Place of Residence

2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

### AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY
Active Applicants .....	2074	964	264	317
New Applicants .....	214	114	114	114
(This Month)				

JOB OPENINGS 1	July 1984
Openings Received .....	796

1/ Available During the Month

July 1984

1/ At End of Period

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	July 1984	June 1984	July 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	86.0	90.6	84.0
Nonmanufacturing - Total	50.7	53.3	49.8
Construction	2.3	2.3	2.6
Trans. & Public Utilities	2.3	3.0	2.8
Wholesale & retail trade	17.6	18.1	17.2
Finance ins. & real estate	2.6	2.6	2.5
Services & mining	14.6	15.3	13.7
Government	10.8	12.0	11.0
Manufacturing - Total	37.3	37.3	34.2

ITEMS	July 1984	June 1984	July 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	\$300.65	\$306.93	\$285.09
Average Weekly Hours	38.3	39.1	39.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 7.85	\$ 7.85	\$ 7.91

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

## EXPLANATION OF DATA

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LOWELL LMA

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